

trip with Indians through the "coastal wilderness," via little-known rivers and creeks. Two chapters are given to jungle life on Aremu River, the locality of the gold mine already mentioned. A concluding chapter is devoted to the coast savannas, under the title, 'The Life of the Abary Savannas.' Supplemental matter in appendices is a classified list of the birds observed, the 161 species being numbered and referred to in the text only by their vernacular names with a reference by numbers to the list, in lieu of burdening the text with the frequent repetition of technical names. There is also a list of native Guianan names of birds, and a list of the moths and some other insects collected in Guiana, "as far as they had been determined" when the book was sent to press. The principal ornithological results of the trip to Venezuela have been set forth in two special papers entitled respectively, 'A Contribution to the Ecology of the Adult Hoatzin,' and 'An Ornithological Reconnaissance of Northeastern Venezuela,' published late in December, 1909.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Beebe was accompanied on his Guiana trip by Mr. Lee S. Crandall of the New York Zoölogical Park, by whose aid nearly three hundred living birds were brought back to the Park, representing fifty-one species, besides many small mammals and reptiles, mostly new to the collection.

Mr. and Mrs. Beebe are both, temperamentally and otherwise, well fitted for exploration in tropical forests and jungles; that they are enthusiasts in this line of field work, and well-equipped for making good use of their opportunities, is evidenced not only by their 'Our Search for a Wilderness,' but by their earlier 'Two Bird Lovers in Mexico,' with which doubtless many readers of 'The Auk' are already familiar. But the later work far excels the former one in interest, as regards both the scenes visited and the information conveyed. The tale is simply and enthusiastically, and hence fascinatingly, related, and contains much that is wholly new or reported from a new view point. Their keen interest and admiration seem to have been almost equally awakened by all forms of invertebrate as well as vertebrate life, and by plant life as well, and they appear to have been constantly impressed by the abundant examples of "protective form or coloration" met with at every turn. The profusion of excellent illustrations add greatly to the value and interest of this exceedingly attractive book.—  
J. A. A.

**Festa's 'In Darien and in Ecuador.'**<sup>2</sup>—Dr. Enrico Festa left Italy early in 1895 on a natural history expedition to Ecuador, but owing to a revolution then in progress in that country was obliged to wait for some months for the return of more favorable conditions, in the meantime spending several months in exploration in Darien. He thus arrived at Guaya-

<sup>1</sup> See *antea*, pp. 227, 228.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. E. Festa | Nel Darien | e nell' Ecuador | Diario di viaggio | di un naturalista | 1909 | Unione | Tip.-Editrice | Torinese | Corso Raffaello, 28 | Torino — Svo, pp. xvi + 397, with 2 maps and about 75 half-tone plates. Lire 10.

quail late in September, 1895, and travelled and collected in Ecuador till about the end of February, 1898, when he returned to Europe. His work was mainly in the Andean region, which he traversed from Cuenca to beyond Tulcan. He made extensive collections in all departments of zoölogy, but especially of mammals, birds, reptiles, and fishes. From the summary of the 'Zoölogical Results' given at the end of the volume, it appears that a large part of the mammals and much of the invertebrate material still remains unpublished. The birds were promptly worked out and published in coöperation with Professor Salvadori,<sup>1</sup> the collection of Ecuador birds alone numbering nearly 3000 specimens and 613 species, of which 17 proved to be new. The present volume, as the title shows, is the author's diary of his explorations, and contains much of general interest concerning the countries visited and their people, especially the Indians and their antiquities, besides the wide range of natural history notes one would expect to find in the diary of a naturalist engaged in exploration. The numerous half-tone plates give views of characteristic Andean and other scenery, and of the natives, their habitations, utensils, weapons, and ornaments. Only the first 53 pages are devoted to Darien, where the author spent only a few months of his three years of exploration in Central and South America. Although the text abounds in references to the birds and other forms of animal life, there is unfortunately no index to enable one to turn readily to the information here so abundantly recorded.—  
J. A. A.

**Thoreau's 'Notes on New England Birds.'**—Mr. Francis H. Allen has brought together in a handy volume, published by the Houghton Mifflin Company,<sup>2</sup> the notes on birds scattered through the fourteen volumes of Thoreau's published 'Journal', "in the belief that readers and students would be glad to have these bird notes arranged systematically in a single volume." The editor has thus earned the gratitude of bird lovers and of the many admirers of Thoreau's quaint and often poetic manner of recording his observations and interpretations of nature. These bird notes were jotted down in Thoreau's diaries mainly between the years 1850 to 1860, with a few of later date and some written as early as 1842. Thoreau was a keen observer, and had much to record about many species, and though not an ornithologist, and sometimes mistaken in his identifications, being autoptically acquainted with very few species, his records have value as covering a period when ornithological observers were few, and the means of identification scanty in comparison with the profusion of hand-

<sup>1</sup> Noticed in *The Auk*, Vol. XVI, 1899, p. 292; Vol. XV, 1900, pp. 81, 303.

<sup>2</sup> Notes on | New England Birds | By | Henry D. Thoreau | arranged and edited | by | Francis H. Allen | With Illustrations from Photographs | of Birds from Nature | [colophon] | Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1910 — 12mo, pp. xiv + 452, 8 half-tone plates, and map of Concord, Mass. May, 1910. \$1.75 net.